

## CLAIMS

1. Powered test-tube agitation device including a small plate (12) having a rest (13) for a test tube to be  
5 agitated and operated in agitation by a powered mechanism (15) and characterized in that the powered mechanism (15) is started by means (17, 117) of optical detection of the entry of an object into a predetermined zone above the small plate.
- 10 2. Device in accordance with claim 1 characterized in that the optical detection means included a photoelectric reflection detection device.
3. Device in accordance with claim 2 characterized in that the photoelectric reflection detection device includes an  
15 infrared emitter (17a) and an infrared receiver (17b) arranged close to the side of said plate (12).
4. Device in accordance with claim 1 characterized in that the optical detection means included a barrier photoelectric detection device (117a,b).
- 20 5. Device in accordance with claim 1 characterized in that the detection means (17, 117) activate the powered mechanism (15) with a predetermined delay.
6. Device in accordance with claim 5 characterized in that the delay is between 10 ms and 1 sec and preferably  
25 100 ms.
7. Device in accordance with claim 1 characterized in that the powered mechanism (15) is started with a predetermined ramp of increase in the frequency and/or amplitude of the plate agitation movement.

8. Device in accordance with claim 2 characterized in that the photoelectric reflection detection device is arranged in front of the rest (13) and turned towards the rear of the device.